
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DIRECTORS APPOINTED TO HEAD NEW COMMISSION OFFICES

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman James J. Hoecker today named directors to head two new offices that will soon become operational. The offices were created as part of internal restructuring under FERC First, a major revamping of the way the Commission conducts its business.

Virginia Strasser, Assistant General Counsel for General and Administrative Law, will head the Office of Administrative Litigation, and Richard L. Miles, Associate General Counsel for Administrative Litigation, will head the new Dispute Resolution Service, an independent office that will act as a "center of excellence" in promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) procedures throughout the Commission and within regulated industry. William J. Froehlich, Assistant General Counsel for Gas and Oil Litigation, was asked by the Chairman and has agreed to serve as a Deputy Director in the new litigation office. He is currently heavily involved in designing the business process for the office.

"I am confident that the breadth of talent and rich experience of these talented individuals will prove invaluable as we implement important changes under FERC First," Chairman Hoecker declared. "I am delighted that individuals of this stature and intelligence will head these important new offices. I have no doubt these organizations will flourish under their capable leadership and contribute substantially to achieving the goals of FERC First."

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Ms. Strasser will oversee all administrative litigation and the facilitation of settlements in cases set for hearing, including the work of trial attorneys appearing before the Commission's administrative law judges.

The office will play a key role in the development of full and accurate records for review by the Commission and administrative law judges. Its staff will include personnel from the litigation functions of program offices and the Office of the General Counsel.

The Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) will lead the effort to increase the use of ADR throughout the Commission. The Service will consist of a small number of ADR professionals. They will perform ADR duties, such as acting as neutrals and convening sessions to initiate ADR processes. They will also work with all those interested in Commission activities to increase ADR awareness and the benefits of avoiding or shortening formal litigation. The Service will provide training, information, and resource services to Commission offices and the industry. Mr. Miles will serve as the Commission's ADR Specialist under the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act. The DRS will enhance but not replace the dispute resolution capabilities of the Commission's administrative law judges, trial staff, and the experts who staff the FERC Enforcement Taskforce Hotline.

FERC First has demonstrated that assignments are carried out faster and more efficiently by combining parts of offices that do similar work, bringing together employees engaged in the same processes, and eliminating repetitive decision-making steps.

Last July, the Commission opened the Office of Strategy and Organizational Management and the Office of Finance, Accounting and Operations. The Office of Markets, Tariffs and Rates will come into being later this year.

Biographies

Virginia Strasser is a proven trial attorney and administrator. As Assistant General Counsel for General and Administrative Law since 1995, she provided legal advice to senior officials on

ethics, labor relations, personnel matters, the Freedom of Information Act, procurement, contracts, and other administrative law issues. From 1988 to 1995, she litigated cases involving labor law, bankruptcy, rail and trucking rates, and administrative law for the Interstate Commerce Commission. Before that, she was a trial attorney from 1985 to 1988 with the Federal Programs Branch, Civil Division, of the Department of Justice, and she served in litigation and attorney-advisor positions with the Department of Agriculture. She has a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and a bachelor of arts degree from Barnard College.

Richard L. Miles has served as Associate General Counsel for Administrative Litigation since 1988. He was primarily responsible for providing direction and administrative litigation responsibilities such as settlement negotiations, and pre-trial, trial and briefing activities involving oil, gas, electric and hydroelectric disputes. During this period, he was active in promoting the use of ADR in dispute resolution. He previously served as Assistant General Counsel for Electric Rates and Corporate Regulation, and as supervisory trial attorney to the Assistant General Counsel, Hydroelectric and Electric Litigation. He holds a law degree from the University of Baltimore Law School and a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Baltimore.

William J. Froehlich has served as Assistant General Counsel for Gas and Oil Litigation for ten years, overseeing litigation and devising settlement strategy. Before that, he was Deputy Assistant General Counsel for two years and a trial attorney for ten years, first for the Federal Power Commission (FPC) and then for FERC. He tried and settled gas certificate, gas rate, oil pipeline and regulatory accounting cases. He began his legal career with the FPC in 1975. He is a veteran of FERC First and has served for 16 years as a permanent part-time faculty member at George Mason University, where he is an adjunct professor in administrative law and government. He has a law degree from Brooklyn Law School and a bachelor of arts degree from Harpur College-State University of New York.